

STAT
February 4, 1962

Reporters Roundup
Washington, D.C.
6:30 P.M.

Moderator: Ken French.
Guest: Senator Wayne Morse, Dem., Oregon.
Panel of reporters: Jack Hall, Chief of Senate Staff
of Associated Press.
Sam Schaeffer, chief Congressional
correspondent of Newsweek.

The following was heard, in part:

QUESTION: "Senator, in your absence you let it be known in the Senate that you would like to object to the confirmation of McCone. You were not able to return in time to participate in the debate. Would you tell us briefly why you objected to the confirmation of Mr. McCone to head the CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY?"

SENATOR MORSE: "Two reasons--first in a speech that I made before I left the Senate to go to the conference, I pointed out that I think that the extraordinary powers of CIA, where there is no Congressional check upon the CIA, where no member of Congress, for example, has access to the activities of the CIA, as different for example in our atomic energy program. Yet staff members, administrative officers of the Pentagon and the State Department, the CIA, men who have never been elected, do have access--violated what I consider to be the spirit and the intent of the check and balance system of the Constitution. And therefore, I said, anyone that is appointed to the Chairmanship of CIA, or the Directorship of the CIA, until we get some legislation passed such as the McCarthy proposal for a Congressional watch-dog over CIA ought to be beyond suspicion as to his qualifications.

"And I took note of the fact, and discussed it in my speech on the floor of the Senate, that I think there are serious questions in regard to his conflict of interests. I think there are serious questions in regard to his past performances that lead me to have doubt as to whether this extraordinary power ought to be vested in this man, until at least there was first set up a Congressional watch-dog committee. And therefore, I said in that speech the burden of proof is on the administration to satisfy beyond the question of a doubt that this man is fully qualified. And as far as I am concerned, they did not sustain that burden of proof, and I asked to be paired against the nomination."